

B3 means for counting to generate event count information from the plurality of filtered event notifications; and
means for emitting alarms to the OMC based on the event count information.

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated June 19, 2002, (paper no. 5) the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Ronnen (U.S. patent no. 6,239,699). The rejections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

Ronnen teaches an optical infrastructure network. A Sub-network Controller (SBNC) in the infrastructure collects a direct alarm (a DDFC message) from a first infrastructure element, wherein the DDFC message corresponds to a fault detected by the first infrastructure element. The SBNC further collects an indirect alarm (an SC message) from each of multiple other infrastructure elements, wherein each indirect alarm indirectly informs of the fault detected by the first infrastructure element and informed of by the direct alarm. After expiration of a designated period of time, the SBNC forwards the direct alarm and deletes the received indirect alarms, or in the absence of receiving a direct alarm, forwards one of the received indirect alarms and cancels the remaining indirect alarms. That is, in one embodiment, Ronnen teaches a sending of a received direct alarm and not sending duplicate alarms that are merely redundant versions of the direct alarm. In the other embodiment, Ronnen teaches accumulating indirect alarms that all redundant of each other and merely forwarding one of the multiple, redundant indirect alarms after a lapse of a designated period of time. In other words, Ronnen merely teaches an elimination of redundant, duplicative alarms.

Nowhere does Ronnen teach accumulating multiple direct alarms, that is, event notifications, and then sending a single alarm representative of the multiple direct alarms. For example, as taught on pages 8 and 9 of the specification, each event notification may represent a different dropped telephone call. Unlike Ronnen, these are each different events and are not merely redundant alarms reporting the same event. Furthermore, Ronnen does not teach an event counter module or a counting of a number of event

notifications and then sending an alarm based on the count. Again, Ronnen merely teaches an elimination of system redundancies and therefore there is no need, in Ronnen, for a counting of the number of alarms received, since all are duplicative and redundant and therefore all may be deleted except one. In Ronnen, it is just a matter of the SBNC waiting until the duplicative and redundant alarms are received so that they may be deleted.

By contrast, by counting the number of event notifications as taught by claims 1, 7 and 14, the severity and persistence of the underlying problems may be indicated. The OMC is then conveyed an alarm when, based on the count, the severity and persistence of the underlying problems warrant the sending of such an alarm. Therefore, Ronnen does not teach the limitations of claims 1, 7, and 14 of filtering event notifications to provide filtered event notifications, counting the filtered event notifications to generate event count information from the filtered event notifications, and emitting an alarm when the event count information exceeds a threshold. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that claims 1, 7, and 14 may now be passed to allowance.

Since claims 2-6 depend upon allowable claim 1, claims 8-13 depend upon allowable claim 7 and claims 15-20 depend upon allowable claim 14, the applicants respectfully request that claims 2-6, 8-13, and 15-20 may now be passed to allowance.

As the applicants have overcome all substantive rejections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the applicants contend that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

1. (Twice Amended) A system for reducing congestion in an Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC), the system comprising a network element that comprises:

a filter receiving event notifications from processes within the network element and providing a plurality of filtered event notifications, wherein each event notification of the plurality of event notifications notifies of a different event;

an event counter module coupled to the filter for receiving the plurality of filtered event notifications from the filter and counting a quantity of event notifications to produce event counter information; and

a performance measurement module coupled to the event counter module for receiving the event counter information from the event counter module and sending alarms to the [manager] OMC.

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7. (Twice Amended) A method for reducing the number of event notifications sent to an Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC) by a network element serviced by the OMC, the method comprising the steps of:

filtering event notifications to provide a plurality of filtered event notifications, wherein each event notification of the plurality of event notifications notifies of a different event;

counting the plurality of filtered event notifications to generate event count information from the filtered event notifications; and

emitting an alarm if the event count information exceeds a threshold.

14. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for reducing the number of event notifications sent to an Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC) by a network element serviced by the OMC comprising:

means for filtering to provide a plurality of filtered event notifications, wherein each event notification of the plurality of event notifications notifies of a different event;

means for counting to generate event count information from the plurality of filtered event notifications; and

means for emitting alarms to the OMC based on the event count information.